

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-26 remain pending. Claims 20, 22, 24 and 26 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is solicited in view of the indicated allowability of claims 17-19, 21, 23 and 25.

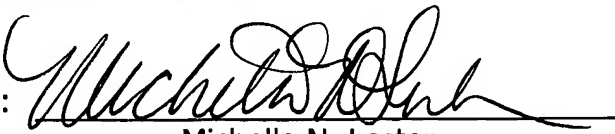
Claims 17-19, 21, 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as the claim preamble was allegedly inconsistent with the recited methodology. The preamble of claims 17 and 21 as well as withdrawn claim 20 have been revised above so as to provide consistency between the preamble and the recited methodology. The dependent claims have been revised accordingly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 17-19, 21, 23 and 25 contain allowable subject matter.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100